

PATENT
IBM Docket No. RPS920020044US1

REMARKS

The application has been updated by amending the Abstract and the Claims. The claims have been amended by correcting informalities in claims 1, 2, 4, and 9, and cancelling claims 13-24 which stood withdrawn. Claims 1-12 remain in the application.

Applicants respectfully request that the objections to the abstract and claims be reconsidered and withdrawn in light of the amendments above and the discussion which follows and that the application be found in condition for immediate allowance.

Withdrawn Claims 13-24

Claims 13-24, which stood withdrawn, are cancelled by the present amendment without prejudice. Applicants intend to file a continuing application presenting claims 13-24 prior to the issuance of this case.

The Specification Abstract

The Abstract has been objected to because it uses language which could be implied. In response, Applicants have amended the abstract to remove language which could be implied.

The Claim Objections

Claims 1, 2, 4, and 9 have been objected to for informalities concerning punctuation. In response, Applicants have made appropriate corrections.

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The purpose for these amendments is solely to correct the punctuation informalities raised by the Examiner and are seen by Applicants as cosmetic. Applicants assert that the amendments to Claims 1, 2, 4, and 9, and incorporated by reference in any claims depending therefrom, are not narrowing amendments made for a reason related to the statutory requirements for a patent that will give rise to prosecution history estoppel. See *Festo Corp. v. Shoketsu Kinzoku Kogyo Kabushiki Co.*, 122 S. Ct. 1931, 1840, 62 U.S.P.Q.2d 1705, 1712 (2002). Applicants point out that the Supreme Court in *Festo* noted that a cosmetic amendment would not narrow the patent's scope and thus would not raise the estoppel.

Applicants, therefore, respectfully request removal of all objections and a timely notice of allowance to optimize Applicants' statutory patent term.

Respectfully Submitted,



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